



PRESS RELEASE

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CASA GRANDE MAN FOUND GUILTY OF CARJACKING MURDER OF TAXI CAB DRIVER

TUCSON, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on May 17, 2002, MICHAEL EDWARD ANITA, 12/9/72, of Casa Grande, Arizona, was found guilty of 18 USC §2119(3), Theft of a Motor Vehicle with Intent to Cause Death or Serious Bodily Harm, by a federal jury at Tucson, Arizona.

The evidence at trial showed that on June 8, 2000, Dale Kisto and Michael Anita abducted and murdered a taxi cab driver (Daniel Sheehan) in Casa Grande, Arizona. They then concealed his body on the Tohono O'Odham reservation in a cotton field. The victim's cab was found on June 13, 2000 on the Reservation 5 miles from the Mexican border near the village of Choulic. The victim's blood was located inside the trunk of the cab and on the exterior of the cab. The victim's blood was also located on the clothing of the defendant and co-defendant Dale Kisto. Mr. Sheehan's skull was located in the cotton field near Stanfield, Arizona 4 months later on October 11, 2000.

The defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury for the carjacking/murder of Daniel Sheehan on September 27, 2000 in Tucson, Arizona. On October 18, 2001, Dale Kisto pled guilty to the indictment and was sentenced to 16 years in prison consecutive to a 4 year state prison term.

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On May 13, 2002, defendant Mike Anita proceeded to trial before the Honorable Frank R. Zapata in United States District Court. On May 17, 2002, after two hours of deliberation, the jury convicted the defendant of the carjacking and murder of the defendant. He is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Zapata on July 8, 2002 at 9:30am. He faces up to life in prison.

The investigation leading to the guilty verdict was conducted by FBI agents, Tohono O'odham Police Department, and Casa Grande Police Department .

The government was represented by Assistant United States Attorneys Sean C. Chapman and Jesse J. Figueroa, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-00-1264-TUC-FRZ

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